

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVII

June 2006

Number 6



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

June 8, 2006 7:00 pm

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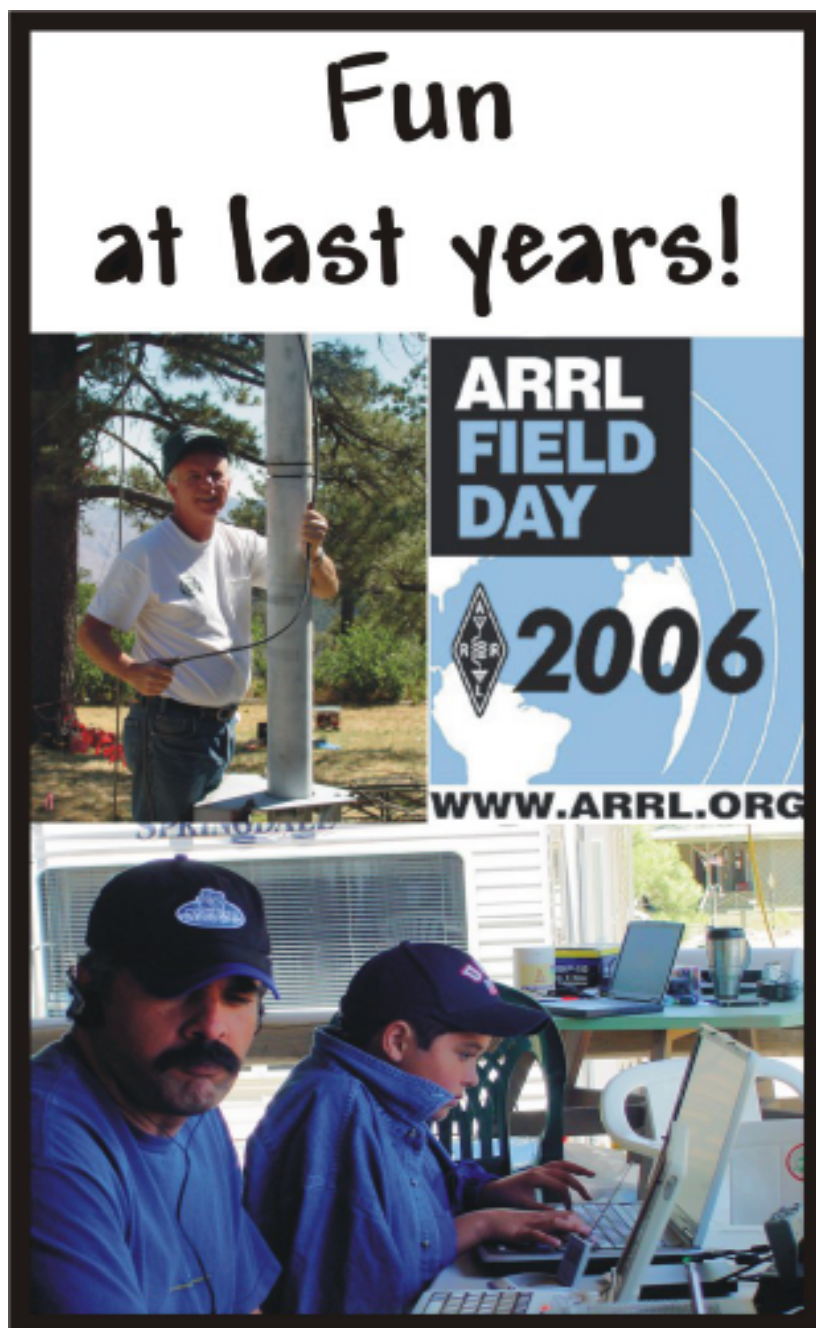
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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:
kc6qls@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>



June meeting is all about FIELD DAY!

2006 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
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Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

2006 Standing Committee

Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
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WAMO	W6LKK	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master(s)	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928

Staff and Writers:

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting minutes
	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6LKK	Erich	WAMO Report
W5COM	Tom	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	The A.R.E.S Connection
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
	Bridget	Photos



Pre-Registration

2006 ARRL Southwestern Convention
At the web site www.sandarc-conv2006.org

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



Big thanks to Skywarn for coming out and showing what they do. I hope they picked up some new members.

Field Day is HERE! I am looking forward to this event. This month we will have a demo of the logging software. If you are going to bring a laptop or computer to Field Day you may want to bring it to the meeting. I will load the software on it. The software writer told me we can only use it for our Field Day and keep the password only to myself. It is a cool program and I think you will all like it. We will have the slide show of our last Field Day. Ed will go over who is going to do what and the station set ups. Mike will go over safety items and Anselmo will go over the MENU! Ann will talk about the lodging.

We have the Field Day pins ordered, so please bring payment for your Field Day pins to this coming meeting. I hope many of you will be able to come join the fun for whatever time your schedules may allow. Lodging accommodations are still available for those who wish to stay overnight. Check out the reflector and website for the latest info and plans about Field Day.

The winner of our April Silent Auction was Ann KC6TBG, who won a pair of Sea World Tickets. The June Silent Auction will be for dinner for four (two adults and two children) at the Hometown Buffet (a value of \$30.00). We will start the bid at \$20.00. Please keep in mind that the purpose of the Silent Auction is to raise funds for our club's general fund, and all Silent Auction Prizes are donated by businesses in our community.

Continued Page 11

May Silent Auction is for: Family Four Pack
HomeTown Buffet (2) Adult (2) Kid
Tickets Valued at \$30.00
Opening bid \$20.00
Donated by: HomeTown Buffet, El Cajon

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
11 May 2006



The general membership meeting of the ARCEC was called to order by club president Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1900hrs.

SECRETARY'S: Report was approved by the general membership.

TREASURER'S: Report was given by Susan, KF6WXA. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

President: Rios announced that the silent auction prize would be two passes for admission to Sea World valued at \$103. The opening bid would be \$70.

Ed, AI6O introduced this evening's speaker and topic. The topic is the Skywarn program.

After the break, the meeting continued.

EDUCATION: Chairman Mike, N6OPH reported that the technician class has been completed and that the General Theory course will begin on the second week of August. A precise date will be announced in June or July. The instructor will be Gordon, AE6QW. He may also teach the extra theory course later in the year. Gordon gave a short bio and accepted the post as the general class instructor.

SANDARC: Report was also given by Mike, N6OPH. He reported that the council modified to increase the amount to donate new technician class books to the libraries within San Diego County. It was moved and seconded that ARCEC instruct our delegates to vote in favor of this item. Motion was carried.

PRESIDENT'S: Report was given by Paul, KC6QLS. He stated that the club would not participate in the Crest activity. The winner of the silent auction was Ann Rios, KC6TBG.

VICE PRESIDENT: Ed, AI6O reported on the upcoming plans for field day. The June meeting will be devoted solely to field day.

SANDARC BUDGET was outlined by Ann, KC6TBG. There are major changes in this budget due to the inclusion of the Legislative Oversight Committee and the projected liability for the convention. It was moved and seconded that the SANDARC budget be accepted. Motion was carried. Ann also reported on the budget for the LOC. It was moved and seconded that the LOC budget be approved. The club was concerned that SANDARC's non-profit status would be compromised by the activities of the LOC. Motion was carried.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Chairman Rich, N6NKJ reported that the ARES meeting will be held on the third week in June because of a 50 mile bike race. The first weekend of June will be the Special Olympics at SDSU.

About 40 operators would be needed for this event. They will not operate a mobile unit van for the Red Cross as there are "too many strings attached."

MEMBERSHIP: Chair Ann, KC6TBG reported that there are 39 members and 2 visitors with a total paid membership of 199.

SOCIAL: Chairman Xemi reported that he is working on the menu for field day.

PRIZE: Chairman states that he needs more prizes and ticket sales.

TECHINICAL: Report was given by Paul, KC6QLS. There are some problems with the 70cm machine that may cost \$100 to repair. The budget provides for these types of repairs.

There being no further business before the general membership the meeting was adjourned at 2122hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael P. Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



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From The Vice President AI6O ED



I was re-reading the rules for Field Day recently and number 2 really stood out. Here it is:

2. Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

I certainly am looking forward to a fine participation by our club ham community. With right at 200 members, we should cause a traffic jam up there on the mountain! But don't forget that this is emergency preparedness at its best. So encourage your non-ham friends and families to take a nice leisurely drive out to Al Bahr Shrine (map on our website, www.wa6bgs.org) and they can see us in "emergency communication simulation".

Our monthly ARCEC meeting is coming up soon. I hope each of you who read this will come out and participate. I will be leading the discussion on Field Day and all the items of concern that need our attention. I sincerely hope you will be present to get in on the discussions. We always needs volunteers and participants, so please be present.

The bands have been pretty active lately. We're using many of the various modes. CW, PSK, SSB, FM, etc. We're using all the bands! We're seeing a good number of people passing their exams (a 10 year old passed his Tech at my last session!). The WAMO nets are doing great! What a great time to be a ham!

Straight ahead!

Ed, AI6O



WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 146.475 (147.420) 107.2 PL

RX 224.480 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.



WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Club Attire

***** Shirts on hand. Call for Sizes *****

Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts.

Show off your club colors and let all know that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is strong and growing.

Contact: K6PKS Paul Schmidt (619) 733-2284


Calendar of Events June 2006

June	3:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
June	3:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
June	6:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
June	8:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
June	10:	Fair Opens
June	10:	ARES Meeting, 8:00 am
June	10:	El Cajon ARC Day Fair
June	11:	El Cajon ARC Day Fair
June	12:	Counterpoise Dead Line
June	17:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
June	17:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
June	18:	Fathers Day

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

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Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager
5375 Kearny Villa Road
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(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays June

June 1	WB6POW	Gordon	Ripley
June 2	KG6QCO	David	Cyr
June 7	KF6CVG	Robert	Lang
June 11	N6WHK	Phil	Pedigo
June 12	W6RHV	Bob	Boehme (L)
June 12	KF6CSY	John	Durante
June 15	KF6MLK	Carl	Scavo
June 18	KF6ZCA	George	Miner , JR
June 20	NX6Q	Mel	Dunn
June 22	KE6QCA	Allan	Ingram
June 22	W6PEA	Patrick	Allen
June 26	WA6YWC	Frank	Ratty
June 27	WB6ODR	Bob	Smith
June 27	N6OEI	Matt	Lunati
June 29	KE6QVF	Bill	Geiler
June 30	K7SD	Steve	Bertalan
June ?	?	Lucille	Kelm (L)

Jokes " A Talking Clock "

A Guy was proudly showing off his new apartment to a couple of his friends late one night, and led the way to his bedroom where there was a big brass gong and a mallet.

"What's that big brass gong?" one of the guests asked. "It's not a gong. It's a talking clock," the Guy replied. "A talking clock? Seriously?" asked his astonished friend. "Yeah," replied the Guy. "How's it work?" the other friend asked, squinting at it. "Watch this," the Guy replied. He picked up the mallet, gave the gong an ear-shattering pound, and stepped back. The three stood looking at one another for a moment. Suddenly, someone on the other side of the wall screamed, "You Jerk... it's 3:15 in the morning!!!"

Tom W5COM

Word Search "Field Day"

M	B	S	H	O	L	R	W	S	E	L	G	O	T	O
A	N	T	E	N	N	A	H	6	W	A	O	S	W	A
E	E	W	A	J	T	D	B	T	A	V	E	W	6	V
B	X	O	B	R	W	I	E	J	E	O	R	A	L	O
O	T	R	P	S	C	O	N	T	E	S	T	6	E	B
W	6	J	E	Q	O	S	V	H	V	R	U	B	H	T
A	H	T	L	W	R	T	O	W	6	S	N	G	J	S
L	V	M	R	I	O	S	E	F	S	Q	I	S	B	H
A	P	R	S	D	T	P	L	B	T	6	N	O	I	C
C	E	Q	P	Q	A	E	P	O	A	W	G	P	E	R
I	X	L	S	H	R	V	O	J	T	H	A	R	N	O
T	W	A	W	6	E	X	E	R	I	A	V	R	O	T
R	O	E	D	B	N	O	P	O	O	L	J	T	E	A
E	I	V	O	R	E	I	J	T	N	I	W	A	V	C
V	S	L	O	G	E	I	N	G	X	T	F	U	N	T
B	P	T	F	E	P	X	Q	I	B	E	R	H	Q	L
F	I	E	L	D	D	A	Y	L	J	Q	B	V	6	W

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNA | <input type="checkbox"/> LOGGING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APRS | <input type="checkbox"/> LOOP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM | <input type="checkbox"/> PEOPLE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTACTS | <input type="checkbox"/> POWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTEST | <input type="checkbox"/> QRM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIELD DAY | <input type="checkbox"/> RADIOS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> SOFTWARE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FUN | <input type="checkbox"/> STATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GENERATOR | <input type="checkbox"/> TUNING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOTO | <input type="checkbox"/> VERTICAL |

BONUS Word

☐ WA6BGS

Last Months Word Search

V	O	U	N	T	E	E	R	R	E	T	T	O	P	S
A	W	D	G	W	K	G	A	Z	O	A	G	Z	K	L
T	O	L	D	K	T	L	A	G	H	T	I	N	G	W
S	K	Y	W	A	R	N	N	A	Z	G	A	K	Z	A
E	A	Z	A	T	G	Z	F	E	R	A	D	I	O	A
W	D	T	K	E	L	G	A	W	A	T	S	D	W	E
E	K	W	A	T	C	H	L	T	X	M	E	T	O	T
K	A	L	N	X	A	K	L	J	F	K	C	E	H	A
U	L	N	E	Z	E	P	E	J	O	F	P	R	I	G
F	E	D	G	G	W	A	T	D	F	L	O	D	B	Z
A	G	J	O	K	H	S	H	X	Y	K	S	U	T	A
N	A	D	A	R	K	T	W	K	L	F	O	D	A	F
E	O	L	O	L	N	G	A	E	O	Y	S	Q	D	O
P	D	A	D	J	K	R	T	A	D	W	H	D	W	D
M	T	U	K	L	H	M	A	K	J	E	A	E	K	U
E	H	G	W	E	A	T	H	E	R	G	K	Q	L	S
I	Z	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	S	D	W	A	D	Z



JUST AN ANALOG GUY IN A DIGITAL WORLD!

Some people can quickly forget radios take their beginnings in a time of ancient electronics in comparison to the current elaborate menu driven gadget age. But Charlie Porter, KG6PRO, WAMO #1643, is one who holds the sentimental binds to history close to his love of radio. A native of Louisville, KY, Charlie still keeps his Hallicrafter's SX-16 operational, a radio which his father bought new (\$110.00) in the midst of the depression. He values the history and ownership of these prized boat anchors.

Charlie has been a member of the El Cajon Club for about two and a half years. He is an active member of the AMI Group and loves operating AM on his vintage 75 watt homebrew transmitter, (62' ARRL handbook). Mostly on 75 meters, with some SSB activity on 40 and 20 meters. Best 20 meter DX was to a Russian using a simple dipole, ladder line fed, with the Heathkit HW-101 running barefoot in SSB mode. Also contacts with Melbourne, Australia, and Santiago, Chile using same equipment. Quickly exchanged those QSL's. From 1965 to 1969, Charlie served in the US Navy as a ETN, Communications tech 2nd class petty officer. Served on the USS Estes off the coast of Da nang, Vietnam repairing the transmitters, receivers, and crypto equipment. Charlie and his wife met in the 80's through the Theatre Organ Society, helping to install the pipe organ in Trinity Church (Spring Valley). Charlie also does some pipe organ restoration work on the side, and repair of tube equipment.

Charlie has one concern about the future of Amateur Radio, and that is the lack of interest of our youth. He doesn't see much direction in electronics or science these days. One has to get passionate about learning something and getting involved! He helped two grandsons build some simple radio projects several years ago. Since then they have shown ambitions towards engineering. (And hey, we'll give you a little credit for that!) Adults, parents, and grandparents should provide encouragement and support for tomorrow's radio operators, and design engineers. There is still lots of things waiting to be invented!

No longer just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on KG6PRO.

73!

Tassy Rios

MAZE



**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner:

I have been in contact with the author of the Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul, and I have received five NEW ones. I have not read them yet as to do so is bad luck... you know, it's a Feng Shui thing. I'm sure that they are as good as they have been in the past. I have been getting e-mails telling me that readers like them and hope that they will continue.

Keep the feed back coming; we really try to make this the best AMATEUR RADIO Newsletter around. The staff works very hard to make everything look and flow with out a hitch. I would like to say thank you to all Staff Writers, Column Writers, Photographers and Proof Readers. Your assistance and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Take care 73,
Paul Rios, Editor

2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Amateur Radio Convention to be held on September 22, 23, and 24, 2006 at the San Diego Marriott in Mission Valley, CA.

The Banquet Speaker will be Gordon West, WB6NOA. We will have a Luncheon with Bob Heil, K9EID as our speaker. We will have Exhibitors from all aspects of Amateur Radio, Speakers sharing their thoughts about the fine art of Ham Radio. Also Scheduled: Swap meet, T-Hunt, Radio Room, Prizes and lots of equipment to check out and buy.

Early Bird Registration deadline is May 31, 2006. If you register prior to May 31, 2006, registration is \$15.00, which includes a convention pin (while supplies last). After May 31, 2006 Pre Registration is \$17.50 and an At Door Pass for the convention will be \$20.00. Reservations at the Marriott, please tell them that you are booking a room for Ham Show 06 and use ASDASDA for the Group Code, so you can receive the Convention rate. Please visit the convention website at www.sandarc-conv2006.org for details.

Volunteers Needed

Field Day
San Diego Fair
Fund Raiser Sale "Rummage"
Mother Goose Parade
Radio Clause

Please Sign up at the next meeting

See Susan KF6WXA for your Field Day Pins!

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at cferree@IEEE.ORG

Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector
To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"The longest-lived and the shortest-lived man, when they come to die, lose one and the same thing."

- Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, *Ibid*

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Didn't have time to get some pics of more junk, so thought I would write about just WHERE it all comes from. 90% seems to come from Ebay, with a little from the Swapmeets and some from very gracious Donors. It is so heartwarming to have someone donate a radio that I would have paid incredible dollars for on Ebay. They just can't be THANKED enough!! (Though my Wife doesn't thank them!) As available space has just about run out, the latest push is to get a complete set of all the Ham Radio Manuals there ever were. But even manuals add up and there are probably 50 giant boxes full and a whole file cabinet filled just with Heathkit manuals. They are available for loan, as long as they are returned promptly after copying. Please don't ask me to copy them for you. I did that for a HW-101 manual once, and it took 5 days of coming in early to work before management got in and sneaked a few copies at a time before it was finished. You can do them at Kinkos a lot cheaper than the Manual Brokers will charge. There is a whole cottage industry built on reproducing manuals. Guess no one cares about copyrights anymore. They will charge you \$20 or more for the SAME manual you can download absolutely free from BAMA. Here is an important LINK: <http://bama.sbc.edu/>

There are THOUSANDS of free manuals for just about every old rig there is. Another invaluable resource is Mods DK. <http://www.mods.dk/> They have manuals for most of the newer radios, but request a donation to download. I already did so, so if you need a newer manual, email me at (wa6mhz@cox.net) and I will nab it for you. There are plenty of Mods for the radios there and Mods to wideband them also. Here is an interesting site that has lots of free Heathkit manual downloads: <http://www.pestingers.net/pdfs/> For Broadcast early radios, you can't beat Nostalgia Air: <http://www.nostalgiaair.org/> They have almost every early radio data scanned and downloadable free. For data on tubes, here is an online tube database that is wonderful: <http://www.nj7p.org/Tube.php>

EBAY!!! The sole reason all my life savings has been squandered away and income has been decimated to the point of POVERTY!! Ebay is an addiction far harder to kick than any drugs, alcohol or gambling!!! The lure is to get something incredibly rare for an incredibly cheap price. And often that is the case. But what happens is that everyone else in the world has the same idea, and you wind up paying FAR MORE than the item is worth. I have seen radios go for much more than you can walk into HRO and buy brand new for. And the hidden cost is the shipping. It will cost often much more to ship from the East Coast than the item is worth!!! That's why I don't have a Heathkit DX-100 or Globe King yet. No one in California seems to list items. It all comes from the East Coast. Don't know why, but 90% of the time that seems true. The worst heartbreak of Ebay is to have a sizable bid on an item and you are so excited about winning the bid when 3 seconds before the auction ends, some dirty rotten rat skunk will come in with what is called a SNIPE and steal it away from you!!! But what happens when there are 2 Snipers?? An item worth no more than \$20 winds up going for \$100 or more!!! The sellers are just delirious with JOY!!!! That's because in sniping, you put in an OUTRAGEOUS bid just to make sure you win with 3 seconds to go. Another cottage industry built up over this is online bid sniper services, where they will charge you a percentage of the win cost to do it automatically for you. For the very rich buyers, that is the way to go. But I try to do it manually all the time, and have important bid ending times in my PDA. It is miserable to have to be there at 3 AM to win the bid, but that's what it takes sometimes. OH, don't buy anything from EUROPE!!! I wanted a rare 2 meter rig and they wanted \$150 to ship it from England!!!! OH, you just plugged your rig in backwards and blew it up? Or dropped it from the tower and watched it splatter? EBAY is where you can get more from it than if it were in NEW condition!!! There is the "MAYBE I CAN FIX IT" syndrome, where hopelessly wasted radios are bid for furiously. The answer is NO, they can't be fixed!! Also, in the same vane, is the "MAYBE THERE IS A PART I NEED" theory. So you wind up paying \$70 for a 25 cent knob. Yes, EBAY is EVIL!!! but I can't escape it!!! We need a REHAB center for Ebay Addicts!!! My wife will be the first to commit me.

73 WA6MHZ

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"ARRL Faces Advertising Quandary"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 23 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

Reports of controversy are swirling at ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut with an industry proposal for a novel ad pitching Ham equipment to an aging audience of Ham Radio operators.

Against a backdrop of studies showing the average age of Hams approaching 50, and within the peak of their income-earning years, Ham Radio manufacturers have unsuccessfully long sought the "silver bullet" connecting these financially well-off, graying Hams with the perfect Ham equipment ad campaign. While one manufacturer, Up & Down Towers, believes they have found the right ad, the League isn't sure it wants it to run.

The ad features a Ham and his licensed spouse, sharing a quiet moment in a well-appointed Ham shack nestled in a tranquil setting. Focus group interviews prove the images are romantic and compelling to this peculiar group of individuals - graying Hams. The operator's position is uncluttered, with transceiver and amplifier at an expansive desk. The two are seen gazing into one another's eyes, slowly turning the dial of a Ham transceiver, oblivious to the band filled with signals. On the desk sits a straight telegraph key. Against this romantic backdrop, a voiceover suggests *"When the time is right, don't let a short antenna spoil the moment."*TM The picture cuts away to an enormous, 90 foot crank-up tower,

topped by a 40, 20 & 15 meter Yagi array. League officials are uncomfortable with the message that "a bigger antenna is better" and the obvious parallels with ads for prescription medications commonplace in today's media marketplace.

The suggestion is more than just Ham antennas are being pitched and the League isn't buying. Reached at ARRL headquarters in Newington, QST Editor David Sleeper WA1ZZZ explained the League's position. "In the non-Ham world of advertising, our aging population is being bombarded with ads for prescription medications pitched as solutions for physical problems. The League fears that newly-licensed Hams from this group may be confused by the ads, thinking large antennas like those in the ad are available only by prescription". Sleeper adds "In addition, prescription medications today are routinely used for a variety of physical conditions, among them, a condition experienced by increasing numbers of older Hams and referred to in Ham circles as "Rubber Duckie Syndrome". The League fears the ads will lead some Hams to think their medical conditions can be solved by buying a new tower".

The League wishes to steer clear of the controversy but is having trouble passing up the advertising revenue. A decision from Newington is expected in the near future. Meanwhile, *Chicken Noodle Soup* wishes to remind our Ham readers that the ads for the tower-antenna combination have not yet been approved for major media markets and clinical studies involving tower-antenna combinations indicate long-term use may lead to shortness of breath, heart irregularities, excitement, fatigue, sweating, and financial discomfort. Never drink alcohol in excess with tower-antenna combinations. Only your Ham retailer knows if a tower-antenna combination is right for you. The League wishes to apologize to any Hams viewing this ad, who live in communities limited in their choice of antenna sizes by CC&Rs.

*"When the Time is Right, Don't Let a Short Antenna Spoil the Moment."*TM is a registered trademark of Up & Down Towers Corporation.

"Morris Code AZ6CW"

Public Relations

Volunteers are still needed for the San Diego Fair (Del Mar Fair). Our club days are the first weekend of the fair, which is Saturday, June 10, 2006 and Sunday June 11, 2006, and the shifts are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We have some volunteers already for our fair days, but there are still other fair days available that need volunteers, and we can volunteer on any days where slots have not been filled. Please contact Skip Cline KD6RFQ at kd6rfq@ixpres.com (760) 757-5424 or me at kc6qls@cox.net (619) 593-9445 to sign up to help out at the Amateur Radio Booth at the fair, and please be sure to leave your telephone number so we can call you back. Your participation is needed to make this event a success and to help get the word out about Amateur Radio.

Paul KC6QLS

San Diego Fair Dates Still Available:

Tues.	6-20-06	all day
Wed.	6-21-06	all day
Thurs.	6-22-06	2- 6 p.m. shift
Fri.	6-23-06	all day
Sat.	6-24-06	all day
Sun.	6-25-06	all day
Tues.	6-27-06	all day
Wed.	6-28-06	all day
Thurs.	6-29-06	all day
Fri.	6-30-06	all day
Sat.	7-1-06	all day
Sun.	7-2-06	all day

From The President Continued

At the April meeting there was a discussion and vote on the venue for our annual Christmas Dinner. The vote was unanimous to have our dinner at the Home Town Buffet located on Main Street in El Cajon. I confirmed with the Home Town Buffet that we can have it there on Monday, December 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The cost will be the Home Town Buffet's dinner price and can be paid by each member at the door. Please mark your calendars and I hope to see everyone there.

Lastly, at our April meeting there was discussion about the Crest Fire Safe Council's proposal. As we did not have enough volunteers sign up, the ARCEC will not participate in their endeavor. Any ARCEC members volunteering with the Crest Fire Safe Council are participating as individuals and/or through their membership in other clubs and organizations. We wish them all the best with their project.

Paul KC6QLS
President ARCEC



Miguel Miller from Skywarn

The A.R.E.S Connection

From Rich, N6NKJ



Hello again;

A lot of things have happened in the last few days in ARES.

Eric Crosser, N6SUB has had to give up the job of coordinating the Special Olympics due to personal reasons, so Al Rich and I, have taken over the job for the time being.

With the Special Olympics coming up on June 3rd and 4th, and the real possibility that we might have to cancel our involvement with the Special Olympics, Al and I had to try and get enough operators to fill the many areas that needed to be filled. With the hard work of Al Rich W6WYN, Mike Maston N6OPH, Dave Doan KC6YSO, and myself Rich Beisigl N6NKJ, the Special Olympics will go on as planned.

ARES is in need of a "Few good men and women" who can be ready to respond to any of our local hospitals in a short period of time, whenever their internal communications go out. If you want to be part of this team, contact me and I will point you in the right direction.

Some of you heard that Tuck N6ZT was going to resign, well he has reconsidered and will remain the Section Manager.

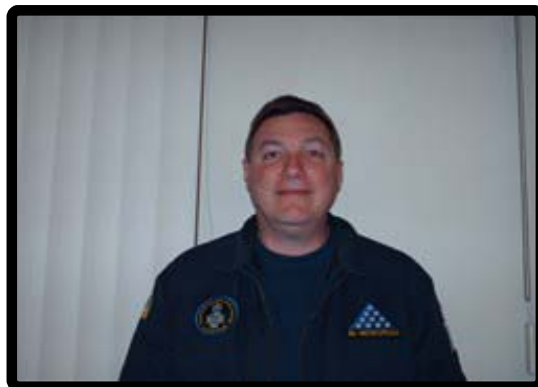
That is all I have for this month. I know this month's article is a short one, but due to the problem with Special Olympics almost being canceled, all of our energy has been put into seeing that this did not happen.

Everyone enjoy field day.
73'S and 88'S
Rich, N6NKJ

Welcome New Members



Rick Dickson, KI6DTD, WAMO # 1691



Will Tisch, KI6DQJ, WAMO # 1696

New Members:

John Berry KI6JWB WAMO # 1695

Gloria Lyons, KI6DTA, WAMO # 1690

Ray Armstrong, W6REY, WAMO # 1697

Visitors:

Raymond Boisvert, KG6SWW

Jim Schmitz, KI6BXU

Thank you to all members who have renewed. Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73

Ann, KC6TBG

Field Day

Another Perspective

Field Day has always been equated with contacts, points; fun and the rush of a contest. However, Field Day is even more than all of that. There is truly a serious side of this event that is sometimes lost in the hustle of the days activities. Field Day activities have their own unique perils and pitfalls that must be observed at all time. I will briefly outline some of these points so as to fully appreciate the real meaning of Field Day.

Field Day is above all an exercise; not a contest. Sure the elements of contesting are there but in the final analysis the points are really a small portion of what field day is all about. Field day is an exercise of preparedness and improvisation. The typical scenario would be this: An earthquake just occurred in your area. The phone and electrical lines are down; there are people in the street that are in need of medical attention. Your job is to set up a communications center to address this disaster. This is the "what if" pretense for field day activities. All of your radio gear is operated via battery or a generator or possibly solar power. You would erect antennae and assign operators on different frequencies or bands to handle the traffic. That is what we are really practicing when we go up to the Al Bahr Shrine Camp this June. All of the fun and camaraderie is secondary to this primary charge. While we are there at the shrine camp some safety rules need to be observed. These rules are established not for the sake of making rules. There are some very practical reasons for this.

The camp is on National Forest land. Here in southern California the fire danger is real. If you notice the trees and the foliage, you will notice that they are very dry. Some of the trees may even be dead. A careless spark would cause a firestorm that would be just as serious as the 2003 fires. Please no smoking except in the one designated smoking area. Under no circumstances would there be an open flame ANYWHERE at the site. The club will be operating a generator to power the radio equipment. This generator is gasoline powered. That is why the area at the generator site and three feet in a circle need to be clear of brush or tall grass. Also, a fire extinguisher should be near the generator at all times. When the generator is being serviced or refueled, two people will be present. One person will refuel or service the machine and the other person will hold the fire extinguisher at the ready. While the barbeque is in operation, there should be an additional fire extinguisher there as well. Please no climbing the trees or walking on the roof. The club will install several antennae to facilitate radio communication. We have three military style crank up towers. Should it become necessary to climb those towers, one should use a safety harness and wear a hard hat. I would also recommend steel toed shoes as well.

These towers are not very tall, but any injury sustained from a fall would be serious.

So far the safety discussed thus far has had to do with the equipment required for the operation of the radio stations. The stations themselves need to also be attended to in a safe and careful manner. Believe it or not, and I've seen this with my own eyes at the club Field Day operation, one person was at the top of the tower making adjustments to the yagi antenna while at the respective radio an operator not only turned on the rig but keyed the microphone while the man was still on the antenna tower. Dumb!!! Both operators were at least general class or higher licensees!! Good idea; when making adjustments on the antenna on the tower, the rig should not only be turned off, but unplugged or unhooked to the power source. Most important is that each piece of radio equipment needs to be properly grounded. Ideally, this would be a copper stake driven eight feet in to the ground. Sometimes this is not possible. Improper grounding can also lead to injury. It would seriously impact your ability to communicate with other stations during the exercise. While not solely a safety issue, SWR is very important to a successful event. We are on the leeward side of the mountain and propagation is not the best. This is all the more reason to ensure that the SWR is 1:1 or as close to it as possible. Most of the newer radios have a built in antenna tuner with corresponding meter. For those with older rigs a separate antenna tuner/bridge is needed for tuning by hand. You may be required to retune when you change bands or go from one extreme to the other in the same band. Be aware of the limitations of the rig and how to operate it correctly. These radios belong to other club members who volunteer their use every year. They are treasures for the owners, so treat them accordingly. To most of our readers, all of this may seem to be very elementary. Yes indeed some of it is. But you would be surprised at the amount of operators who are unaware of some of these common sense rules and procedures.

Last, but not least is making contacts during the Field Day exercise. While it has the look and feel of a contest, it's not. Courtesy can still be achieved during the rush of exchanging the necessary information of each contact. If you should work a "dup" don't dismiss them as last week's trash. Apologize or greet them warmly and move on. It can still be done without making the other person feel unwanted. I can't really tell you how to speak or work the radio. Most of you may be more experienced than I in that department. You can be safe, respectful of other people's property and feelings and still have fun in the process. That is the real meaning of Field Day.

Safety Officer

Michael Maston, N6OPH

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El Cajon, CA 92022



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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2005? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



Amateur Radio ... A National Resource